

Holsworthy Benefice

March News Sheet

Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy, Pyworthy with Pancrasweek

	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
28th Feb		7pm Stations of the Cross			
1st March	11am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Mass	9.30am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Family Service
7th March				7pm Family Stations of the Cross	
8th March	11am Morning Prayer	3pm Evensong	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
14th March					7pm Stations of the Cross
15th March Mothering Sunday		11am Mass	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
22nd March	11am Joint Service at Methodist Chapel		11am Cafe Church Refreshments served from 10.30am	9.30am All Age Service	9.30am Morning Prayer
29th March Palm Sunday	11m Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Morning Prayer

WWW.holsworthybenefice.org.uk

Find us on Facebook at Holsworthy Churches

www.achurchnearyou.com

Revd Alison Hardy - Alison Hardy – reverendalisonhardy@gmail.com, 07780 295752

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Administrator – Libby Cullimore - holsworthybenefice@icloud.com - 07717 750198

	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
1st April			10am Said Holy Communion		
2nd April Maundy Thursday		7.30pm Mass and Watch	7.30pm Eucharist, 9pm Compline, and Watch		
3rd April Good Friday		3pm Veneration	10.30am Walk of Witness in the square		2pm – The Last Hour
4th April Easter Vigil		8pm Easter Vigil and 1st Mass	8pm Easter Vigil		
5th April Easter Day	11am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Mass	9.30am Sung Eucharist		3pm Easter Service with Easter Egg Hunt
12th April	11am Morning Prayer	3pm Evensong	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
19th April	11am Joint Service at Methodist Chapel	9.30am Mass	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
26th April	11am All Age Eucharist		11am Cafe Church Refreshments served from 10.30am	9.30am All Age Service	9.30am Morning Prayer



Thankfully the rain held off to allow us to start our service outside with the Blessing of the Plough, and we finished with a warm cup of tea and slice of cake.

Thank you to everyone who supported us with our Plough Service at Pancrasweek,

Dear Friends

How good it is at last to see the daylight lengthen, hawthorn leaves emerge, daffodils in flower. After a very wet February, I am hoping for a little more sun and a little less rain – however, all things in moderation will do very well.

As we turn our thoughts to Lent this month, so we focus on our Easter preparations. The spiritual preparation for Easter has been an important part of Christian discipline since the early church. Easter is a holy season. Lent is a time for reflection and prayer, for confession and transformation, for forgiveness and renewal. This year's Lent course runs on Tuesdays at the Rectory from 7pm. We look at the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit: who he is; his gift to the church; baptism and God's graces. The five sessions take place on Tuesdays: 24th February; 3rd March; 24th March; 31st March & 7th April.

During Lent we are holding three 'Stations of the Cross' – an ancient service which marks the stages of Jesus' last hours leading up to his crucifixion. It is a reflective service which can take various shapes including the short and participative one we use (20-30 minutes long).

A confirmation class additionally runs during Lent on Mondays. Please contact me if you would like to find out more.

This year the material for World Day of Prayer has been prepared by the church in Nigeria. The service is held on Friday 6th March in St Peter & Paul's and contains a selection of Nigerian hymn music as well as stories of contemporary Nigerian Christians. Please join us at 3pm, followed by refreshments.

You are more than welcome to join any or none of the above Lenten activities running alongside our usual church services. However you choose, I wish you a spiritually refreshing Lent.

Yours in Christ,
Alison

March Notices

Saturday March: Stations of the Cross

'Stations of the Cross' is a reflective Lenten practice involving prayerful contemplation on the final hours leading up to Jesus' crucifixion. This year it takes place on selected Saturdays during Lent:

Hollacombe Church 28th Feb at 7pm, Pancrasweek 7th March at 7pm, Pyworthy Church 14th March at 7pm.

Lent Bible Study: the Holy Spirit

Tuesdays at the Rectory from 7pm.

6th March: World Day of Prayer

3.00pm led by Christians' Together in Holsworthy & District. Held this year at St Peter and St Paul's with material provided by the Church of Nigeria. Refreshments to follow.

Lady Day Banner Service for Mothers' Union

Friday 20th March 11am in Exeter Cathedral

Dust off those MU banners and join a celebration of MU!

Transport available: please speak to the Rector

Pyworthy Easter Crafts: Pyworthy Village Hall

Saturday 21st March 2-4pm Children's Easter crafts

Funding Support

St Peter & Paul's thank the following funders for their support to complete the repair and strengthening work on the church tower following the storm damage last year. Grant awards were given by Devon Historic Churches Trust; National Churches Trust; the Viscount Amory Trust. Local funding was raised through the generous support of church activities. Thank you to one and all.



150 years of Mothers' Union!

This year MU is 150 years old and here in Exeter Diocese we want to celebrate this! On Friday 20th March at 11.00 am in the Cathedral we are holding a banner service, and we hope you can help us with this. Do you know whether there are any MU banners tucked away in a corner somewhere in a church in your area, where there is no longer an active MU branch? If so, we would love someone from these churches to come (with a friend) to this service, and join in with other banner bearers. Anyone can be involved, whether an MU member past or present, and especially anyone who has nothing to do with MU but who would like to join in the celebrations!

Mothers' Union members are very proud of their organisation, started in 1876 by a vicar's wife, Mary Sumner, to help parents with the Christian upbringing of their children. Since then MU has helped the lives of millions of people worldwide, and we think this should be celebrated! Please contact me, Nickie Johnson, on n.johnson0509@btinternet.com with the name of the church, the persons involved and their email address.

We need numbers as soon as possible in order to give further details in plenty of time.

The winners of the St. Peter's Monthly Jackpot Draw for February were:

1st Prize £17.50 - ticket number 181, Michele C

2nd Prize, £3.50 - ticket number 2, Ray C

The St Peter's Monthly Jackpot Draw will sadly be finishing after the draw in March 2026. The PCC of Holsworthy Parish Church would like to thank everyone that has taken part in the draw over the years. The money raised has been invaluable to the maintenance of the church and, as such, we would like to ask all participants whether past or present, to consider making an annual donation of £12 straight to church funds.

Our bank details are - PCC of Holsworthy Parish Church, acct no. 05007216, sort code 53-50-52. You could also pay by card, using the machine in church or there is a wall safe for cash donations.

Many thanks,

The PCC of Holsworthy Parish Church



Booking is not essential but is helpful in planning enough craft materials.



Children's Easter Craft Session

Saturday 21st March

**2.00pm until 4.00pm at
Pyworthy Village Hall.**

Tea, coffee, juice and cakes available.

(We will be using glue and paints, so old clothes or aprons recommended).

Contact details:

Amanda on 07455 609876

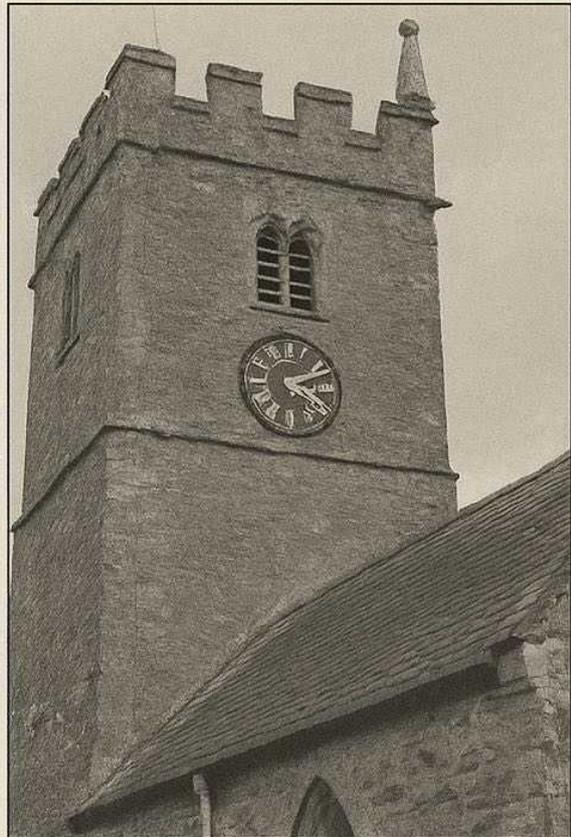


SAVE OUR CHURCH CLOCK

St Swithun's has a 14th century tower, part of a 13th century church. The last major restoration was in 1880.

The clock, repaired 50 years ago, has now seized.

**PLEASE HELP
RESTORE
OUR CLOCK**



We are raising funds for the repair of our church. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.



**[gofundme.com/f/
help-restore-our-clock](https://gofundme.com/f/help-restore-our-clock)**



TLG is a national Christian children's charity that helps churches to bring hope and a future to struggling children.

Our coaches support children and young people in Stratton Primary School, Budehaven Community School and Holsworthy C of E Primary School.

Would you like to join the team?

Full training and resources are provided. To find out more, please contact

**Debbie Whelan, Early Intervention
Coordinator, bandh2411@gmail.com**

Early Intervention

One coach, one child, one hour a week.

Find out more about.....

Your Parish Church Welcome to your local parish church. Your church belongs to you - to those who live in its parish. It is here for you through all of life: for christenings, weddings and funerals as well as on Sundays.

Weddings

Do you know that you can marry in your local church whether or not you are Christened or go to church? Talk to your vicar who will explain how to book in a wedding. The church also offers pre and post-marriage courses and church blessings, the renewal of vows and the blessing of wedding rings at anytime before or after your wedding.

Funerals

Your church is here for you and your family whenever you need us, offering friendship, support and prayers. If you are bereaved, or have recently lost loved ones, our prayers are with you. If you would like to use our church premises for a funeral, memorial or burial please do contact us. If you would like to talk with someone either before or after a death we will arrange a meeting with one of the church members or your vicar.

Christening / Baptism

A Christening or Baptism marks the beginning of the Christian life. You don't need to know anything about the Christian faith to be baptised (though it helps), and you are encouraged to grow as a Christian through learning to follow Jesus' teachings. A Christening takes place at the church font which is usually placed near the door of the church building. This is to remind us that baptism is often the entry point to the Christian faith.

Booking To book in a wedding, a christening or a funeral, or for anything else, please contact

Revd Alison Hardy - reverendalisonhardy@gmail.com - 07780295752

**Benefice Administrator Libbi Cullimore - holsworthybenefice@icloud.com
07717750198**

A plea from the Rector of Bradworthy Benefice. If your church has a vacancy for a deanery representative, please read on....

Why Deanery Synod Matters and Why We Need You

Every parish in the Holsworthy Deanery has a seat at Deanery Synod. When those seats are empty, our voice is missing. When they're filled, the deanery becomes stronger, wiser, and more connected.

The Church of England is synodical, decisions flow from parishes to deaneries, from deaneries to dioceses, from dioceses to General Synod. Deanery Synod is the crucial link in that chain. It elects people to Diocesan Synod, feeds parish concerns into wider discussions, and helps shape the future of the Church. Without representatives, a parish simply isn't heard.

But Synod is more than legal structure. At its best, it is:

- +A prayerful gathering of Christians across our villages.**
- +A place to share joys, struggles, and ideas.**
- +A way to support one another in rural ministry.**
- +A space where we discern together what God might be calling us to do.**
- +A reminder that we are part of something bigger than our own parish.**

You don't need expertise.

You don't need to know Church law.

You just need a love for your parish, a willingness to listen, and a desire to help shape the future of the Church in our area.

Serving on Synod is a small commitment that makes a big difference.

Your parish deserves a voice.

Your deanery needs your perspective.

And together, we can strengthen the mission and life of the Church across Holsworthy Deanery.

Would you consider representing your parish?

Readings for March & April

1st March- Purple- Second Sunday of Lent-

Genesis 12: 1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4: 1-5, John 3: 1-17.

8th March- Purple -Third Sunday of Lent-

Exodus 17: 1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5: 1-11, John 4:5-42.

15th March- Purple/Rose -Mothering Sunday -

Exodus 2: 1-10, Samuel 1:20-end, Psalm 127: 1-4, Psalm 34: 11-20, 2 Corinthians 1:3-7, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2: 33-35, John 19: 25b- 27.

22nd March- Purple – Firth Sunday of Lent-

Ezekiel 37: 1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

29th March- Red – Palm Sunday-

Matthew 21: 1-11, Psalm 118: 1-2. 19-end, Psalm 118: 19-24, Philippians 2:5-11.
Passion- Matthew 26:14-end of 27, Matthew 27.11-54.4

5th April- White/Gold– Easter Day -

Acts 10: 34-43, Jeremiah 31: 1-6, Psalm 118: 1-2. 14-24 (or 118: 14-24), Colossians 3:1-4, Acts 10:34-43, John 20: 1-18, Matthew 28: 1-10.

12th April- White– Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 14a 22-32, Exodus 14: 10-end, 15: 20-21, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9, Acts 2: 14a 22-32, John 20: 19-end.

19th April- White– Third Sunday of Easter-

Acts 2: 14a 36-41, Zephaniah 3:14-end, Psalm 116 : 1-3. 10-end (or 116: 1-7), 1 Peter 1:17-23, Acts 2: 14a 36-41, Luke 24: 13-35 .

26th April- White–Fourth Sunday Sunday of Easter -

Acts 2: 42-end, Genesis 7, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2: 19-end, Acts 2: 42-end, John 10: 1-10.

Contacts

Bridgerule Church Wardens

Trevor Bowden – 01288 381247

Peter Harris – 01288 381 149

Bridgerule Safeguarding Lead

Val Harris -01409 259192

Holsworthy Church Warden

Mary Osborne – 01409 253115

Holsworthy Deputy Church Warden

Helen Flaherty – 07790 380119

Samantha Hatter -07808 889489

Holsworthy Safeguarding Lead

Libby Cullimore – 07717750198

Hollacombe Church Warden

Paul Dymond – 01288 381309

Hollacombe Safeguarding Lead

Libby Cullimore - 07717 750198

Pyworthy Church Wardens

Liffy Lowes - 01409 254423

Ali Davies - 01409 251281

Pyworthy Safeguarding Lead

Val Harris -01409 259192

Pancrasweek Church Wardens

Adam Rivett – 07941 940524

Libby Cullimore - 07717 750198

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Libby Cullimore – 07717750198

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Administrator – Libby Cullimore - holsworthybenefice@icloud.com - 07717 7501098

Holsworthy Foodbank

01271 377077

Samaritans

116 123

Age UK -

0808 055 6112

Domesic Abuse – Womens Aid

0808 2000 247

Domesic Abuse – Mens Advice Line

0808 8010 327

Childline

0800 111

Sunday 1 March 2026 Second Sunday of Lent

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the
light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of
righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into
the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things that
are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are
agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 12:1-4a

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

PSALM Psalm 121

R *The Lord shall keep you from all evil.*

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth. **R**

He will not suffer your foot to stumble;
he who watches over you will not sleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep. **R**

The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right
hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by
day,
neither the moon by night. **R**

The Lord shall keep you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep your soul

The Lord shall keep watch over your
going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5. 13-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

GOSPEL John 3:1-17

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of

God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of
ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all
adversities which may happen to
the body,
and from all evil thoughts
which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but
first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was
crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of
the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and
peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Exodus 17:1-7

A reading from the book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

PSALM Psalm 95

R Come, let us worship and bow down.

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving
and be glad in him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods. **R**

In his hand are the depths of the earth
and the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land. **R**

Come, let us worship and bow down
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God;
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep
of his hand. **R**

O that today you would listen to his voice:
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
on that day at Massah in the wilderness,
"When your forebears tested me, and put me
to the proof,
though they had seen my works. **R**

"Forty years long I detested that generation
and said,
"This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways."
"So I swore in my wrath,
"They shall not enter into my rest." **R**

SECOND READING Romans 5:1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

GOSPEL John 4:5-42

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman

answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour." Many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the
temptations of the world, the flesh and the
devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you,
the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Come, let us worship and bow down.

COLLECT

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human
family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Either **Exodus 2:1-10**

A reading from the book of Exodus.

A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Or **1 Samuel 1:20-end**

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the LORD.' The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.' Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only – may the LORD establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour,

and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD.' She left him there for the LORD.

PSALM Either **Psalm 127:1-4**

R *The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming in.*

Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labour in vain.
Unless the Lord keeps the city,
the guard keeps watch in vain. **R**

It is in vain that you hasten to rise up early
and go so late to rest, eating the bread of
toil,
for he gives his beloved sleep.
Children are a heritage from the Lord
and the fruit of the womb is his gift. **R**

Or **Psalm 34:11-20**

R *O taste and see that the Lord is gracious.*

Come, my children, and listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
Who is there who delights in life
and longs for days to enjoy good things? **R**

Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from lying words.
Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it. **R**

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous
and his ears are open to their cry.
The face of the Lord is against those who
do evil,
to root out the remembrance of them from
the earth. **R**

The righteous cry and the Lord hears them
and delivers them out of all their troubles.
The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and will save those who are crushed in spirit. **R**

Many are the troubles of the righteous;
from them all will the Lord deliver them.
He keeps all their bones,
so that not one of them is broken. **R**

SECOND READING

Either **2 Corinthians 1:3-7**

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation;

if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

Or **Colossians 3:12-17**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL

Either **Luke 2:33-35**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

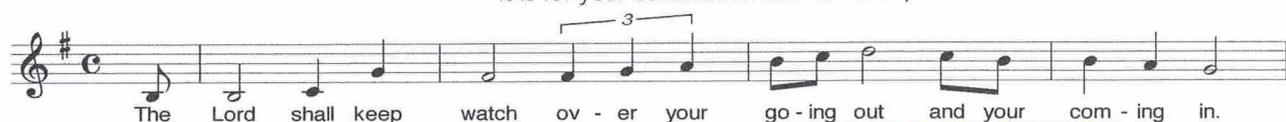
Or **John 19:25b-27**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

POST COMMUNION

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food
and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of
faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Sunday 22 March 2026 Fifth Sunday of Lent

COLLECT

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 37:1-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

PSALM Psalm 130

R *My soul waits for the Lord.*

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my
supplication.
If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss,
O Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you shall be feared. **R**



I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;
in his word is my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord,
more than the night watch for the morning,
more than the night watch for the morning. **R**

O Israel, wait for the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy;
With him is plenteous redemption
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 8:6-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL John 11:1-45

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about

their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and
sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the
human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of
his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his
resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

GOSPEL Matthew 21:1-11

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

PSALM

Psalm 118:1-2. 19-end (or 118:19-24)

R *This is the day that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.*

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures for ever.
Let Israel now proclaim,
"His mercy endures for ever." **R**

Open to me the gates of righteousness;
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it. **R**

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone. **R**

This is the Lord's doing,
and it is marvellous in our eyes.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it. **R**

Come, O Lord, and save us as we pray.
Come, Lord, send us now prosperity.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord;
we bless you from the house of the Lord. **R**

The Lord is God; he has given us light;
link the pilgrims with cords
right to the horns of the altar.
You are my God and I will thank you;
you are my God and I will exalt you.
O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures for ever. **R**

LITURGY OF THE PASSION

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the LORD said: The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

PSALM Psalm 31:9-16 (or 31:9-18)

R *Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O God of truth.*

Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am in
trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
my soul and my body also.
For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of my
affliction, and my bones are consumed. **R**

I have become a reproach to all my
enemies and even to my neighbours,
an object of dread to my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street they flee
from me. **R**

I am forgotten like one that is dead, out of
mind;
I have become like a broken vessel.
For I have heard the whispering of the
crowd; fear is on every side;
they scheme together against me,
and plot to take my life. **R**

But my trust is in you, O Lord.
I have said, "You are my God.
My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
Make your face to shine upon your
servant,
and save me for your mercy's sake." **R**

SECOND READING Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Let the same mind be in you that was
in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in
the form of God, did not regard equality
with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a
slave, being born in human likeness. And
being found in human form, he humbled
himself and became obedient to the
point of death – even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him and
gave him the name that is above every
name, so that at the name of Jesus every
knee should bend, in heaven and on earth
and under the earth, and every tongue
should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to
the glory of God the Father.

PASSION

Either Matthew 26:14 – end of 27

Or Matthew 27:11-54

POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of
a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for
our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.

